

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SAM-01 SAB-01 AF-10

ACDA-19 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 093351

R 281155Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8320

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GENEVA ADDED AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SY, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. SUMMARY. ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR ME, SOVIET
PRESS APRIL 27 KEEPS ITS SILENCE ON SECRETARY'S ULTIMATE
DESTINATION, EVEN IN REPORT ON HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. PRAVDA
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COMMENTARY SAYS ISRAEL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO SYRIAN OVERTURES

ON DISENGAGEMENT, DESPITE US ASSURANCES THAT DELIVERY OF POW LIST IN FEBRUARY WOULD BE MET BY ISRAELI RECIPROCAL RESPONSE. SCANT TREATMENT OF US ROLE IN ME IS JUXTAPOSED TO TASS REPORTS OF PRAISE FOR SOVIET ME ROLE BY SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND IDI AMIN. END SUMMARY.

2. DEMCHENKO COMMENTARY (PRAVDA APRIL 27) TAKES ISRAEL TO TASK FOR INCREASING TENSION ON THE GOLAN DESPITE SERIES OF SYRIAN UNILATERAL STEPS DIRECTED AT ACHIEVING ME SETTLEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, DEMCHENKO SAYS, SYRIA PROVIDED ISRAEL WITH LIST OF POWS THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES (UNSPECIFIED). THIS WAS UNILATERAL STEP BY SYRIANS WHO RECEIVED PRIOR "DEFINITE ASSURANCES" FROM THE US THAT A RECIPROCAL STEP WOULD FOLLOW FROM ISRAEL. ISRAEL, HOWEVER, HAS RESPONDED BY INCREASING FORTIFICATIONS ON MOUNT HERMON AND BY LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS ASSERTING THAT OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE A NECESSITY FOR ISRAELI SECURITY. AT SAME TIME ISRAELIES HAVE TRIED TO IMPOSE A CERTAIN "ERSATZ" SETTLEMENT-A DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ONLY IN LANDS OCCUPIED BY THE ISRAELIS LAST YEAR". SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WITH FULL JUSTIFICATION HAS REJECTED SUCH A SETTLEMENT AND REFUSED TO AGREE TO DISENGAGEMENT IF IT DOES NOT INCLUDE "WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LANDS OCCUPIED BY THEM BOTH IN 1973 AND IN 1967."

(COMMENT: DEMCHENKO TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT HE BELIEVED NO DISENGAGEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM QUNEITRA. HE SAID CITY IS "SYRIA'S SUEZ CANAL" THE MOST IMPORTANT POPULATION CENTER IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND A SYMBOL TO THE SYRIANS.)

3. ON US ME ROLE, PRAVDA KEEPS READERS IN DARK ABOUT SECRETARY'S ME TRIP (HAVING CARRIED BARE BONES ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING IN GENEVA). ONLY REFERENCE TO ME IN TASS ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IS HIS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE AS FORUM FOR ACHIEVING ME SETTLEMENT. BY CONTRAST, DAMASCUS-DATELINED TASS STORY REPORTS PRAISE OF SOVIET ME ROLE BY SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. LOOKING FURTHER AFIELD, TASS STORY REPORTS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOOK MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV TO UGANDAN PRESIDENT AMIN THANKING AMIN FOR HIS HIGH PRAISE (IN A LETTER TO ALGERIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE) OF SOVIET EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ME SETTLEMENT. DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 28 APR 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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